

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY AT
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

October 17, 2001

IN RE:)	
)	
APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE)	DOCKET NO.
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT)	01-00635
NEGOTIATED BY BELL SOUTH)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND)	
E.SPIRE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	
PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 251 AND 252 OF)	
THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996)	

ORDER APPROVING AMENDMENT TO THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

This matter came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority") upon the Petition for approval of the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and e.spire Communications, Inc. The Petition for approval of the Amendment came before the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 and 252.

The original Interconnection Agreement was filed with the Authority on August 21, 2000, Docket No. 01-00741. It was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on November 7, 2000.


The Amendment was filed on July 19, 2001, and was considered at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on September 25, 2001, in Nashville, Tennessee before Chairman Sara Kyle, Director H. Lynn Greer, Jr., and Director Melvin J. Malone. The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104 *et seq.* Based upon the Petition, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 and 252, the Directors unanimously approved the Amendment and made the following findings and conclusions:

- 1) The Amendment is in the public interest as it provides consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s service area;
- 2) The Amendment is not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto;
- 3) No party has sought intervention in this docket;
- 4) The Amendment satisfies the standards for approval of negotiated interconnection agreements set forth in 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 and 252; and
- 5) The Amendment is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 and 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104 *et seq.*

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement negotiated by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and e.spire Communications, Inc. is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.


Sara Kyle, Chairman


H. Lynn Greer, Jr., Director


Melvin J. Malone, Director

ATTEST:


K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary